

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The following remarks are being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17, 19-21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are currently pending. Claims 18, 22, 25 and 28 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 6, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26 and 27 are hereby amended. Support for the changes is provided throughout the Specification, specifically at pages 31-32 and pages 36-42 and Figure 16.

No new matter has been introduced. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,532,744 to Akiwumi-Assani et al. ("Assani") and U.S. Patent No. 5,724,537 to Jones ("Jones").

Claims 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Assani and Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,510,842 to Phillips et al. ("Phillips").

Claims 1, 5-7 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over EP 0720372 to Kwon (hereinafter, merely "Kwon") in view of Jones.

Claims 1, 3, 5-8 and 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Phillips in view of Jones.

Claims 2, 23-24 and 26-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Assani and Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,381,145 to Allen et al. ("Allen").

Claim 9 was rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Phillips in view of Jones and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 715,354 to Iwamura et al. (hereinafter, merely "Iwamura").

Claim 10 was rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Phillips in view of Jones and further in view of Iwamura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5, 959, 690 to Toebe, VIII et al. (hereinafter, merely "Toebe").

Claim 11 was rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Phillips in view of Jones and further in view of Iwamura and further in view of Toebe and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 201, 927 to Comer (hereinafter, merely "Comer").

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Phillips in view of Jones and further in view of Iwamura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 341, 193 to Schipper et al. (hereinafter, merely "Schipper").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"A decoding device for decoding a coded stream, the device comprising ...

wherein a value of a register stored by said decoding control means is increased by 1 each time an unit of said coded stream is decoded by said plurality of decoding means.

wherein the decoding control means sequentially detects a processing status of the plurality of decoding means and when the decoding control means detects that a respective one of the plurality of decoding means finishes a processing of decoding, the decoding control means supplies parameters of a unit of the coded stream that is indicated by said value of the register to the respective one of the plurality of decoding means and causes the respective one of the plurality of the decoding means to decode the unit of the coded stream” (Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teach or suggest the above identified feature of claim 1. Specifically Assani, Jones, Phillips, Kwon, Allen, Iwamura, Comer, Schipper, and Toebe, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest wherein a value of a register stored by said decoding control means is increased by 1 each time an unit of said coded stream is decoded by said plurality of decoding means and wherein the decoding control means sequentially detects a processing status of the plurality of decoding means and when the decoding control means detects that a respective one of the plurality of decoding means finishes a processing of decoding, the decoding control means supplies parameters of a unit of the coded stream that is indicated by said value of the register to the respective one of the plurality of decoding means and cause the respective one of the plurality of the decoding means to decode the unit of the coded stream, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, and 27 are also patentable.

Furthermore, Claim 23 recites, *inter alia*:

“A decoding device for decoding a source coded stream,
the device comprising ...

wherein the control means allocates the slices to the plurality of slice decoders so as to realize the fastest decoding processing of

the picture by the slice decoders irrespective of the order of the slices included in the picture. (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, the Office Action (page 16) relies on column 5, lines 56-63 of Allen to reject the above-identified features of claim 23. In the cited portion, Allen discloses that “context model 203 is able to update the context and send the necessary information over a feedback signal to decoder 202 to begin decoding the next bit”.

First, Applicants submit that the cited portion of Allen describes a traditional decoder that is a single decoder and does not have parallel decoders (see Allen, column 5, lines 47-50 and Figure 2A). Applicants submit that single decoder does not require allocating slices to different decoders. Second, Applicants submit that Allen’s feedback signal is to let decoder begin decoding the next bit. Allen’s feedback signal does not allocate any data to the decoder. Allen’s invention indeed relates to parallel decoders. However, Allen’s invention requires “having the coded data in order by context bin” (Allen, column 5, lines 40-45) in contrast with Applicants’ “irrespective of the order of the slices included in the picture”. Applicants submit that Allen does not teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 23.

Applicants respectfully submit Assani, Jones, Phillips, Kwon, Allen, Iwamura, Comer, Schipper, and Toebe, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 23.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 23 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 23, independent claims 24 and 26-27 are also patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 16-17, 19-21, 23-24, and 26-27 are patentable

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

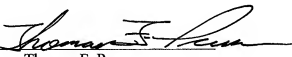
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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